Page 3, between lines 9 and 10 insert BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS;

line 21, insert DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-10 and add new claims 11-26 as follows:

11. (New) A lifting device, comprising:

at least two separately displaceable lifting columns;

a carriage associated with each of said lifting columns wherein said carriage is guided slidably in a longitudinal direction of the column;

drive means for displacing the carriage in a longitudinal direction relative to the column;

control means for controlling the drive means;

connecting lines for connecting the control means of the respective columns wherein said connecting lines form part of a digital data bus and wherein the control means are adapted to exchange digital control signals through said data bus and wherein each of said at least two lifting columns includes an operating means connected to the connecting lines for at least simultaneous actuation of the control means of all lifting columns.

12. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein each said lifting column comprises safety means for switching off the drive means on activation thereof, wherein the safety means likewise exchange digital control signals via the date bus.

13. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the digital data bus is of the two-wire CAN type.

14. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein all said lifting columns are connected by the connecting lines in a closed circuit.

15. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein each said lifting column comprises operating means for switching on specific control means of a lifting column as operating means for the whole lifting device.

16. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one said lifting column is provided with an electrical power supply connection and at least one lifting column is not, and the connecting lines comprise electrical supply lines.

17. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the operating and control means are adapted such that, after arranging of the connecting means a serial number intended for addressing of the control signals is assigned to each of the lifting columns by a program-controlled query.

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18. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the operating and control means comprise adjusting members for mutually associating determined lifting columns to form independently operable pairs.

19. The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the adjusting members mutually associate determined lifting columns by recording in the control means the respective serial numbers of the mutually associated lifting columns.

20. The lifting device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said lifting columns of each of the mutually associated lifting columns standing adjacently in a determined direction are mutually associated to form an independently operable pair.

21. The lifting device as claimed in claim 11, where each said lifting column comprises a column provided with a support foot, a carriage guided slidably in longitudinal direction of this column and a lifting member arranged on a foot end of the carriage.

22. (New) A lifting device, comprising:

at least two lifting columns which are separately displaceably in an unloaded state, each of said columns provided with a support foot;

a carriage guided slidably in a longitudinal direction of a respective column;

a lifting member arranged on one end of said carriage;

drive means for displacing said carriage in a longitudinal direction relative to the column;

control means for controlling said drive means;

connecting lines for connecting the control means of the columns;

operating means connected to the connecting lines for at least simultaneous actuation of the control means of each of said listing column wherein said connecting lines form part of a two-wire CAN digital data bus and wherein the operating means and the control means are adapted to exchange signals through said CAN type digital bus.

16 ~~23~~. (New) A lifting device, comprising:

at least two lifting columns which are separately displaceably in an unloaded state, each of said columns provided with a support foot;

a carriage guided slidably in a longitudinal direction of a respective column;

a lifting ~~listing~~ member arranged on one end of said carriage;

drive means for displacing said carriage in a longitudinal direction relative to the column;

control means for controlling said drive means;

connecting lines for connecting the control means of the columns;

operating means connected to the connecting lines for at least simultaneous actuation of the control means of each of said listing column wherein said connecting lines form part of a digital data bus and wherein the operating means and the control means are adapted to exchange signals through said type digital bus, wherein the operating and control means are adapted so that, after arranging of the connecting means, the operating means and the control means assigned to each of the lifting columns a serial number intended for addressing of the control signals.

17 24. (New) A lifting device, comprising:

at least two lifting columns which are separately displaceably in an unloaded state, each of said columns provided with a support foot;

a carriage guided slidably in a longitudinal direction of a respective column;

a lifting ~~listing~~ member arranged on one end of said carriage;

drive means for displacing said carriage in a longitudinal direction relative to the column;

control means for controlling said drive means;

connecting lines for connecting the control means of the columns;

operating means connected to the connecting lines for at least simultaneous actuation of the control means of each of said listing column wherein said connecting lines form part of a

digital data bus and wherein the operating means and the control means are adapted to exchange signals through said type digital bus, wherein the operating and control comprise adjusting members for mutually associating determined lifting columns to form independent operable pairs.

25. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the adjusting members mutually associate determined lifting columns by recording in the control means the respective serial numbers of the mutually associated lifting columns.

26. (New) The lifting device as claimed in claim 25, wherein said lifting columns of each of the mutually associated lifting columns standing adjacent in a determined direction are mutually associated to form an independent operable pair.

27. (New) The lifting device according to claim 22, wherein each said lifting column comprises safety means for switching off the drive means, wherein the safety means exchanges digital control signals via the data bus.

28. (New) The vehicle lifting device according to claim 22 wherein all said lifting columns are connected by the connecting lines in a closed circuit.

29. (New) A lifting device as claimed in claim 22, wherein each said lifting column comprises operating means for switching on specific control means of a lifting column as operating means for the entire lifting device.